

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-18 will be pending.

The Examiner's arguments have been carefully considered. It is noted with appreciation that claims 5, 10 and 17 are considered allowable, but rejected as depending from rejected base claims. As will be discussed in more detail below, claims 5, 10 and 17 depend from independent claims 1, 7 and 15, which Applicants believe to be patentable in their present form. Accordingly, Applicants believe claims 5, 10 and 17 do not require amendment at this time.

In the office action, the Examiner objected to claims 4-6, 9-11 and 16-18 because the term "the other direction" is allegedly vague since the Examiner argues that there is not merely one "other" direction. Claims 4, 9 and 16 have been amended to recite an elastic piece that protrudes inwardly and in an upward direction from a circumference of the coupling hole, and a curved portion that protrudes in a downward direction. Accordingly, the Examiner's objection is deemed to be overcome by the amendment.

Turning to the substantive rejections, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 15, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 10-268224 ("Ricoh"). The Examiner alleges that Ricoh teaches a rotatable polygon mirror assembly including polygon mirror (52) and a fixing member (18) to substantially cover the upper surface of the mirror for fixing the same to the rotor assembly (6). The Examiner further alleges that Ricoh teaches that the fixing member has a larger outer circumferential portion than the mirror, comprises a circular disc spring with a hole in the middle, an elastic piece, a curved portion (18b)

protruded in another direction so as to press the mirror, and a space between the outer portion of the spring and the mirror. The Examiner also alleges that the “fixing member” of Ricoh will provide a measure of protection from dirt-containing air.

At the outset, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s reading of Ricoh. Part 18 is described in the translated abstract as a “magnetic yoke” with springs 18b incorporated therein. The magnetic yoke does not appear to be a fixing member as that term is used in Applicants claims. As claimed, for example, in independent claim 1, the fixing member is able to fix the rotary polygon mirror to the rotor assembly. It is not at all clear that the magnetic yoke 18 of Ricoh is capable of fixing the rotary polygon mirror 52 of Ricoh to the rotor assembly. Rather, the magnetic yoke serves as a place to mount the rotor magnet 20. Spring 18b presses mirror 52, but it is unclear whether this pressing action serves to fix the mirror relative to the rotor assembly. Applicants request a translated copy of Ricoh in order to better understand the various components. As best understood, magnetic yoke 18 supports rotor magnet 20, and spring 18b presses against mirror 52. However, without more, it is simply not possible to determine how mirror 52 is fixed relative to the rotor assembly.

The only other device shown in Ricoh that might serve as a “fixing member” is “presser foot member 22,” but this device does not appear large enough to “substantially cover an upper surface of the rotary polygon mirror” as required by the independent claims 1, 7, and 15. In order to anticipate a claim, and reference must teach every limitation of the claim. Accordingly, because Ricoh does not appear to teach or suggest a “fixing member disposed so as to substantially cover an upper surface of the rotary polygon mirror, for fixing the rotary polygon mirror to the rotor assembly,” independent claims 1, 7 and 15 are not anticipated. Reconsideration is

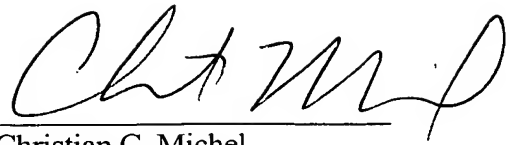
requested. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8-9, 11, 16 and 18 depend from independent claims 1, 7 and 15, respectively. Accordingly, these claims should be allowed as well.

Claims 4, 9, and 16 have been amended to more clearly recite that the elastic piece protrudes inwardly and in an upward direction from a circumference of the coupling hole, and a curved portion protrudes in a downward direction so as to press the rotary polygon mirror. Ricoh does not teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, claims 4, 9, and 16, and any claims which depend from claims 4, 9, or 16 should be allowed for this reason.

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ricoh in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,414,777 to Miyamoto. Miyamoto is cited as teaching a rotor case and printed circuit board. However, even if Miyamoto teaches these elements, the reference does not make up for the deficiencies discussed above. Namely, Miyamoto does not describe a "fixing member disposed so as to substantially cover an upper surface of the rotary polygon mirror, for fixing the rotary polygon mirror to the rotor assembly." Accordingly, because claims 3 and 12-14 depend from allowable claims 1 and 7, respectively, claims 3 and 12-14 should be allowed for the same reasons. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christian C. Michel
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 46,300

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.
1300 19th Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 659-9076

Dated: December 8, 2005